

REMARKS

The last Office Action of June 11, 2008 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 25-48 are pending in the application. Claims 44-48 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 25, 36, 44 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. No amendment to the specification has been made.

Claims 25-30, 32, 34-37, and 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Morreale (US 4039875).

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morreale.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morreale, and further in view of Takano et al. (US 6566779).

Claims 38 and 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morreale, and further in view of Gulbrandson et al. (US 5717273).

Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morreale in view of Gulbrandson, and further in view of Lin (US 6100614).

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The present invention, as set forth in independent claim 25, as amended, recites an electric machine with a rotor, a stator having at least one winding system constructed of a plurality of coils, each coil having wiring strands with ends, and at least one circuit support disposed on an end face of the stator and formed as a printed circuit board as a support element with channels. The ends of the wiring strands are fixed by the at least one circuit support so as to interconnect the plurality of coils in a predetermined wiring pattern.

Morreale discloses a method and an apparatus for interconnecting stator coils an annular printed circuit board having a plurality of radially projecting terminals. The printed circuit board is secured directly to the projecting ends of the coils at one end of the core and the two wire ends of each coil are secured to pairs of adjacent terminals on the board. Etched on the top surface 27 of the terminal board 22, by conventional printed circuit techniques, is a pattern of conductive strips 28 which extend radially out to the ends of each of the projections 26 to form electrical terminals, as shown in FIGS. 6–8.

However, Morreale does not disclose that the terminal board is formed as a support element with channels, as now recited in amended claim 25. This feature was previously recited in claim 36, from which it now has been canceled. These channels advantageously lengthen the leakage paths of the webs on the circuit support and prevent arcing between the different phases, as disclosed in paragraph [0058] of the original specification.

For the reasons set forth above, it is applicant's contention that Morreale neither teaches nor suggests the features of the present invention, as recited in claim 25.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is thus respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The other cited references disclose additional features of the respective dependent claims, but also fail to disclose the feature missing from the Morreale reference. The rejected dependent claims 26–43 are therefore also patentable for at least the reasons that claim 25 is patentable.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is thus respectfully requested.

CITED REFERENCES

Applicant has also carefully scrutinized the further cited prior art and finds it without any relevance to the claims on file. It is thus felt that no specific discussion thereof is necessary.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims on file should be considered patentably differentiated over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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